

REMARKS

This reply is filed in response to the office action dated May 12, 2005.

Reconsideration of the application and the claims is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 41, 43-45, 48-50, 56, 59, 63, 64, 66, 73, 74, 76, 77, and 92 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, claims 39-41, 43, and 65-67 were further rejected. In this reply, in order to expedite the application into issuance, claims 41, 45, 47, 49-50, 56, 64, 66, 73, and 92 are being canceled without prejudice. Canceling of these claims do not constitute an admission on the part of the Applicant as to the propriety of the rejections and Applicants reserve the right to prosecute these claims in a continuing or continuation-in-part application. In addition, claims 39, 43, 44, 46, 48, 59, 65, 67, 74, 76, 77 are being amended. New claims 93-102 are being added. Applicants believe that no new matter or new issue is presented by these new claims.

Double Patenting

With respect to the double patenting rejection over the co-owned U.S. Patent No. 6,649,823, of which the instant application is a continuation application, while Applicants do not concede that the double patenting rejection is proper, to expedite the application into issuance, Applicants will submit a terminal disclaimer when all other rejections are resolved and only the double patenting rejection still remains.

With respect to the provisional double patenting rejection over the co-pending co-owned U.S. Patent Application No. 10/052,004, applicants respectfully request that the

Examiner withdraw these rejections when all other rejections are resolved.

Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested. The claims are believed to be patentable and a favorable Office Action is hereby earnestly solicited. If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is requested to telephone the number provided below.

While no fee is believed due in connection with the filing of this Reply, if any fee is deemed due, the Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge deposit account no. 02-0393 of Baker & McKenzie LLP.

Respectfully submitted,

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